

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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R 290656Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9733

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT POUCH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2148

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: NON-ALIGNED ACTIVITIES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

REF: A) STATE 99106; B) STATE 104050; C) STATE 62535; D) KUWAIT

1031

SUMMARY. GOK OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH KUWAIT STRONG ADHERENT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE GROUPING, IT AWARE OF PROBLEM WHEREBY GROUP CAN STEAMROLLER RESOLUTIONS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON POLITICAL BASIS. HE SUGGESTED THAT TO EXTENT ISSUES CAN BE "DEPOLITICIZED" OR VOTING CAN BE OBTAINED IN NON-POLITICAL CONTEXT NACG COUNTRIES MORE LIKELY VOTE ON MERITS OF ISSUE. TECHNICAL OR OTHER NON-POLITICAL FORUM MAY BE USEFUL IN SOME CASES. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RECENT MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF FONMIN POL DEPT ISSA AL-HAMAD, CHARGE RAISED SUBJECT OF NON-ALIGNED ACTIVITIES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OUTLINED PROBLEM WORLD COMMUNITY  
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FACING IF LARGE GROUP (SUCH AS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE GROUP-

NACG) CAN FORCE THROUGH ILL-CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS THAT WILL NOT HELP IN MEETING SPECIFIC PROBLEMS BEING ADDRESSED.

2. AL-HAMAD WAS FULLY AWARE OF SITUATION, BUT APPEARED TO BELIEVE THAT INCREASED POWER OF NACG WAS FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT, AT LEAST FOR KUWAIT. AL-HAMAD POINTED OUT THAT NON-ALIGNED GROUPING HAD ONLY GROWN UP TO COUNTERACT LARGE POWERS AND COMPENSATE BY NUMBERS FOR THEIR INFLUENCE. HE INDICATED THAT KUWAIT WAS ALSO WILLING TO DO ITS SHARE TO BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING IN THIS GROUP. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN CHARGE MENTIONED US POSITION ON PRG ISSUED (REF C) -- HE DID NOT MENTION KHMER ISSUE SINCE GOK HAS RECENTLY EXTENDED RECOGNITION TO GRUNK (REF D) -- AL-HAMAD SAID THAT ALTHOUGH GOK HAS MADE NO OVERT MOVE TOWARD PRG RECOGNITION, KUWAIT IN FACT "OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZES" PRG IN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. THIS IS ONLY ONE OF MANY TIMES EMBOFFS HAVE GIVEN USG VIEWS RE RECOGNITION OF SUCH GOVERNMENTS TO GOK, WITH FULL EXPLANATIONS IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC. IN THE SAME NAC CONTEXT, AL-HAMAD CONFIRMED THAT THE GOK HAD RECENTLY RECOGNIZED CUBA. OBVIOUSLY GOK'S STANDING IN THE NACG IS MORE IMPORTANT TO IT THAN OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WE ARE URGING.

3. ON OTHER HAND, IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION AL-HAMAD HAD MENTIONED THAT KUWAIT OFTEN FOUND ITSELF IN ODD-MAN OUT POSITION IN ARAB LEAGUE (AL) CONTEXT AND SAID ONLY WAY IT HAD FOUND TO AVOID POLITICAL PROBLEM WAS TO REFER SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WHO SUPPOSED TO CONSIDER PROJECT ON ITS MERITS, NOT ON ITS POLITICS. HE SUGGESTED THAT WHERE SUCH AN APPROACH WAS INDICATED IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES IT MIGHT BE USEFUL.

4. COMMENT: GOK ATTRACTION TO THE NON-ALIGNED CAUSE APPEARS TO BE VERY STRONG ALTHOUGH THE GOK HAS LITTLE IN COMMON WITH MANY OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT IS ASSOCIATED. ITS POSITION AS MEMBER OF THIS GROUPING IS POPULAR AT HOME AND IT GAINS THE GOVERNMENT IMPROVED STANDING AMONG OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD. GOK'S ADHERENCE TO ARAB LEAGUE POSITIONS IS EVEN STRONGER. WHERE KUWAIT HAS LITTLE OR NO INTEREST IN A QUESTION (RECOGNITION OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS, DISPUTES IN REMOTE PARTS OF THE WORLD, ETC) IT HAS NO OBJECTION TO FOLLOWING THE DICTATES OF THE NACG OR AL CONSENSUS. HOWEVER, IN THOSE CASES WHERE GOK INTERESTS ARE CONCERNED, KUWAITIS WOULD PREFER TO VOTE THEIR OWN INTERESTS. CONFIDENTIAL

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WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL ACTUALLY DO THIS DEPENDS ON WHETHER THE QUESTION IS "POLITICAL". IN AN "EXPERT" CONTEXT WHERE PROPOSALS ARE CONSIDERED ON THEIR MERITS AND NO STIGMA IS ATTACHED TO A FREE VOTE, KUWAITIS AND OTHER SMALL POWERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO BE PERSUADED TO VOTE FOR MOST REASONABLE POSITION. THEY CAN RARELY BE PERSUADED ON POLITICAL ISSUES. TO EXTENT THAT WE CAN "DEPOLITICIZE" ISSUES OR DEVELOP A NON-POLITICALLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE IN UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES, MORE

LIKELY WE WILL BE TO OBTAIN VOTES FROM LDC'S LIKE KUWAIT ON THE MERITS OF THE PARTICULAR ISSUE. REFERENCE TO A COMMITTEE OF "EXPERTS" IS ONE POSSIBLE METHOD, FORMULATION OF RESOLUTIONS BY A NON-POLITICAL (I.E. REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE) MIGHT BE ANOTHER. PERHAPS THOSE WORKING DIRECTLY WITH THE PROBLEMS CAN DEVISE OTHER MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS.

5. AN INTERESTING CASE IN POINT WILL BE KUWAIT'S POSITION IN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCES. THERE IS CLOSE US-KUWAITI AGREEMENT ON MANY ISSUES AS WELL AS MANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN KUWAITI VIEWS AND THOSE OF OTHER ARAB LEAGUE OR NACG MEMBERS. KUWAITIS WILL HAVE TO RECONCILE CONFLICTING IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. HOW STRONG A POSITION THEY TAKE IN OPPOSITION TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THEIR GROUPINGS MAY WELL DEPEND ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE CONFERENCES CAN BE KEPT ON A TECHNICAL, NON-POLITICAL BASIS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ANTIAMERICAN, NONALIGNED NATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974KUWAIT02148  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740134-0488  
**From:** KUWAIT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740511/aaaaajle.tel  
**Line Count:** 132  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A) STATE 99106; B) STATE 104050; C), STATE 62535; D) KUWAIT  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NON-ALIGNED ACTIVITIES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, KU, NACG-NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE GROUP, (AL-HAMAD, ISSA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005